

• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VII.

OCTOBER 25, 1940

No. 10



View of Lake Mathews with its Outlet Tower shown in right foreground. On November 16, Lake Mathews will be dedicated to the perpetual service of Colorado River water to the areas within the Metropolitan Water District.

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 WEST THIRD ST.
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*Published monthly in the interest of
 Field and Office Workers on the Colorado
 River Aqueduct, and for the information
 of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
 Water District.*

Vo. VII October 25, 1940 No. 10

District Wins Court Decision in Tunnel Suit

A major legal victory was won by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on October 15 when a decision was handed down by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upholding the action of the Water District in ousting Wenzel and Henoch, Milwaukee contractors, from the 13-mile San Jacinto Tunnel in 1935.

The court decision was the result of an appeal by the contracting firm of a suit that it had brought against the District. The midwestern construction company had claimed that the ouster action by the District was arbitrary and erroneous, and had asked damages in excess of five million dollars.

James H. Howard, General Counsel for the District, argued the case before the appellate tribunal. It was the District's position that the finding of the Chief Engineer that the contracting firm had unreasonably and unnecessarily delayed the construction of the 13-mile San Jacinto Tunnel, a vital link on the 392-mile Metropolitan Aqueduct, was valid and enforceable. General Counsel Howard took the position that the District had acted in accordance with its contract with Wenzel and Henoch when it took possession of the tunnel construction work in February, 1935.

The contractors unsuccessfully attempted to defeat the District's position on several grounds, particularly claiming that the District itself had first breached the contract, that the ground conditions to be encountered had been misrepresented to them, and that by its contract the District was estopped to assert that the delay was unreasonable.

Sitting in Los Angeles, Judges William Denman, Clifton Mathews, and



Excavating a pipe line trench under a street in the West Los Angeles area. A part of the distributing line that will deliver water to Santa Monica.

Albert Lee Stephens of the Circuit Court of Appeals rendered a unanimous decision which upheld a judgment read on March 30, 1938, by Judge Leon R. Yankwich, of the United States District Court, sustaining the action of the Water District.

Assisting General Counsel Howard in handling the case for the District was Charles C. Cooper, Jr., of the District's

legal staff. Acting as Special Counsel with Mr. Howard was the law firm of Finlayson, Bennett and Morrow.

Final construction work on the San Jacinto Tunnel, said to be the most difficult tunnel ever to be driven, was undertaken by the District on a force account basis, and was completed by the Metropolitan Water District in the fall of 1939.

- DIRECTORY -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Vice-Chairman
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 Anaheim.....E. P. Hapgood
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 Burbank.....James L. Norwood
 Compton.....Warren W. Butler
 Fullerton.....Walter Humphreys
 Glendale.....Herman Nelson
 Long Beach.....William M. Cook
 Los Angeles.....Otto J. Emme
 Los Angeles.....Perry H. Greer
 Los Angeles.....Joseph Jensen
 Los Angeles.....D. W. Pontius
 Los Angeles.....John R. Richards
 Los Angeles.....Victor H. Rossetti
 Los Angeles.....W. P. Whitsett
 Pasadena.....Franklin Thomas
 San Marino.....John H. Ramboz
 Santa Ana.....S. H. Finley
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 J. M. Luney, Controller
 Ira R. Pontius, Treasurer

GENERAL STAFF

General Manager and Chief
 Engineer.....F. E. Weymouth
 Asst. Chief Engineer.....Julian Hinds
 General Counsel.....James H. Howard
 Asst. General Counsel.....Arthur A. Weber
 Chief Elec. Engineer.....J. M. Gaylord
 Asst. to Gen. Mgr.....Don J. Kinsey
 Asst. Controller, G. D. Smith
 Asst. Treasurer, C. G. Olson
 Secy. to Gen. Mgr.....Elisabeth von Hagen

DIVISION ENGINEERS

Distribution.....R. B. Diemer
 Transmission.....Robt. N. Allen
 Maintenance.....W. J. Neale
 Field. Supt. Pumping.....T. T. Walsh

SUPERINTENDENTS

(Main Aqueduct Tunnels)
 San Jacinto Tunnel, District
 Force Acct., B. C. Leadbetter,
 Gen. Supt.
 Softening and Filtration Plant
 Griffith Company. Weymouth

Crowell Co., Project Manager,
 Olen Evans, Field Supt.

Waste Water Disposal Line

United Concrete Pipe

Corporation

Schedule 29P

American Concrete &

Steel Pipe Co.

Schedule 30SC

J. F. Shea Co., Inc.

Hollywood Tunnel

J. F. Shea Co., Inc.

Schedule 31P

United Concrete Pipe Corp.

Schedules 32CI, 33CI

Artukovich Bros.

Schedules 34P, 35P, 36P

American Concrete & Steel

Pipe Co.

Schedule 37SC

Macco Construction Co.

Schedules 38SC, 39A

Werner & Webb

Schedule 40A

Warren Southwest, Inc.

Schedule 41P

American Concrete & Steel

Pipe Co.

Orange County Reservoir

C. G. Willis & Sons, Inc., and

Charles G. Willis.

Many Jobs Now In Progress On Delivery Lines

Fourteen principal construction contracts involving a total expenditure by the District of about \$9,000,000 are now in progress for the completion of the authorized work of the District's distribution system. These involve the construction of the water softening and filtration plant; the 200 acre-foot reservoir on the Orange County feeder; and 77 miles of additional lines, including 22.7 miles of pipe and 0.7 miles of tunnels on the main from San Rafael tunnel to Santa Monica; 3.8 miles of extensions within the cities of Burbank, Compton, Long Beach and Torrance, 27.7 miles for the Orange County feeder, the 22-mile waste water line, and the Morris reservoir connection. Considered as a whole, the features now under construction to complete the distribution system are about 40 per cent completed, and the entire distribution system is about 85 per cent completed.

The present work involves facilities to make actual delivery of Colorado River water into the systems of the various member cities; and the pipe lines to a large extent are in streets through residential districts. This situation produces many more engineering and construction details and diverse problems than were encountered when the large feeder lines were being constructed through the country areas. However, with the full co-operation of the contractors and the various cities and utility agencies affected, the work is proceeding smoothly toward a very satisfactory conclusion.

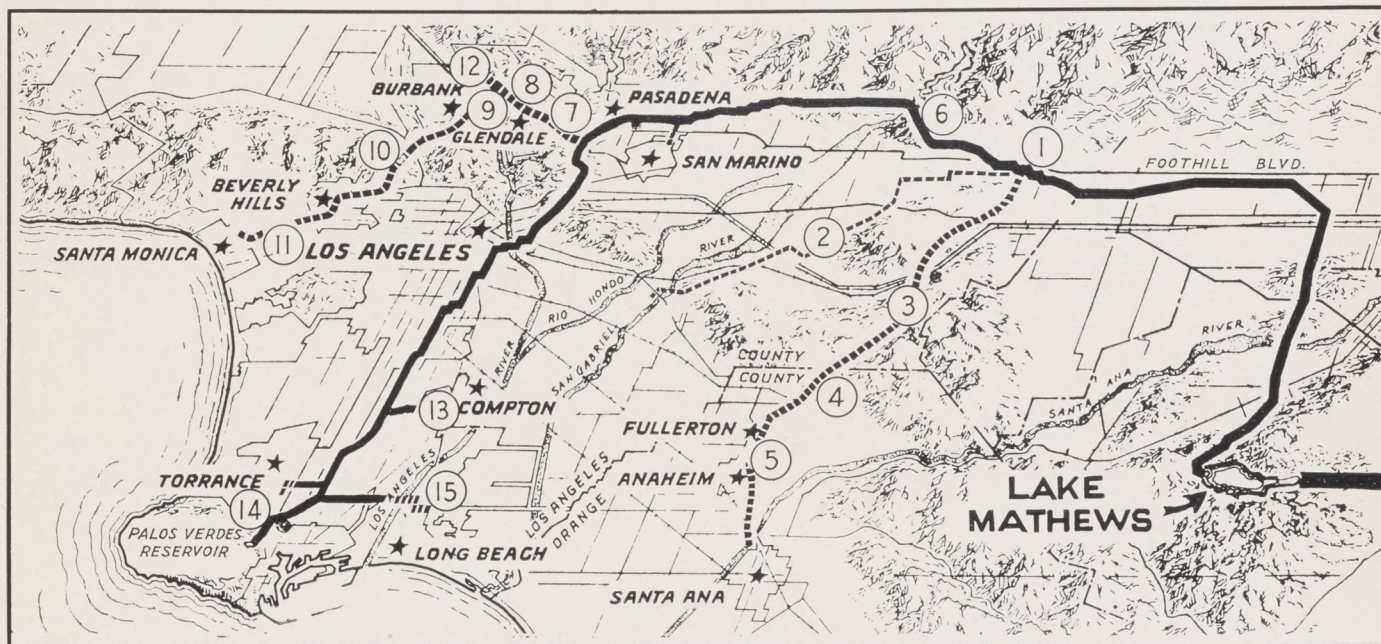
The construction of the water softening and filtration plant has progressed steadily and was about 80 per cent completed on October 19, with concrete work 94 per cent completed. Installation of equipment and appurtenances is being carried on rapidly. A 22-mile waste water line, consisting of centrifugally spun concrete pipe, is being built to transport brine from the water softening and filtration plant to a connection with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District sewer at Whittier Narrows. Seven miles of pipe had been laid on this line by October 19, and laying prog-

ress with crews at three separate locations had reached a peak of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles a week.

On October 19, approximately 3 miles of precast concrete and welded steel pipe had been laid in the cities of Glendale and Burbank on the line from San Rafael tunnel to Santa Monica. Concrete pipe was being made for the portion from Burbank to Hollywood tunnel; and the laying of cast-iron pipe from Hollywood tunnel to Santa Monica was started October 17. Rapid progress is expected on all of this work during the next few months. The driving of the Hollywood tunnel in the hills south of Cahuenga Boulevard was 85 per cent completed by the 19th of October, and preparations were being made by the contractor to start the concrete lining of the tunnel immediately upon completion of the excavation.

The lateral extension within the city of Compton was 70 per cent completed by October 19, and the Torrance extension was 25 per cent completed. These lines are being constructed with asbestos cement pipe, which is similar to concrete pipe except that asbestos fiber binder is added to the concrete and the pipe is

(Continued on Page 8)



Distribution system map indicating location of construction work in progress.

Name of contracting firm on each job is given in list below.

- (1) Water Softening and Filtration Plant
Griffith Company
- (2) Waste Water Line
United Concrete Pipe Corp.
- (3) Northerly Portion, Orange County Feeder
American Concrete & Steel Pipe Co.
- (4) Orange County Reservoir
C. G. Willis and Sons and Charles G. Willis
- (5) Southerly Portion, Orange County Feeder
Macco Construction Co.

- (6) Morris Reservoir Connection
C. M. Elliott and Stroud-Seabrook
- (7) Schedule 29P
American Concrete & Steel Pipe Co.
- (8) Schedule 30SC
J. F. Shea Co., Inc.
- (9) Schedule 31P
United Concrete Pipe Corp.
- (10) Hollywood Tunnel
J. F. Shea Co., Inc.

- (11) Schedules 32CI and 33CI
Artukovich Bros.

Lateral Extensions for Member Cities

- (12) Burbank Lateral
Werner and Webb
- (13) Compton Lateral
Werner and Webb
- (14) Torrance Lateral
Warren Southwest Inc.
- (15) Long Beach Lateral
American Concrete & Steel Pipe Co.

MONTHLY REPORT REVIEWS ACTIVITIES ALONG THE AQUEDUCT LINE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager F. E. Weymouth, filed with the Board of Directors in October, covering work done in September).

Legal Division

All necessary documents to secure payment for Interim Certificate 102, in the denomination of \$756,000, representing bonds heretofore sold to the R. F. C., were prepared. Payment for said certificate was made September 30.

Miscellaneous Activities Division

During the month of September, 1940, 324 labor employment applicants were cleared for work on the aqueduct. Of this number, 8 were made available for force account work and 316 were made available for aqueduct contractors. Identification certificates were issued to 179 applicants. The net turnover for all positions for August was 4.50 per cent as compared with 0.68 per cent for the same month in 1939.

Main Aqueduct

Salvage Division—Stock appraised and transferred to the Banning salvage yard during September amounted to \$1,526.64, making a total to date of \$2,362,495.95. Sales during September amounted to \$14,732.24. Total of salvage disbursements to date amounts to \$1,462,281.10.

Parker Dam Power Plant—The Bureau of Reclamation construction forces completed the placing of concrete in a 10-foot lift of the power house substructure walls. Except for minor trimming of rock excavations, the contractor completed all work for excavation of penstock tunnels, forebay, and upper portion of power house foundation. Erection of plant for fabrication of the penstocks was started.

Electrical Engineering Division

Pumping Plants—The pumping plants were operated on a three-shift construction schedule during the month to supply water for testing and conditioning aqueduct structures.

Construction—Work was continued on the installation of the electrically operated main entrance gates at Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain, and Hayfield, and construction of the telephone line between Lake Mathews and the water softening and filtration plant at La Verne was started.

Civil Engineering Division

Design—Structure and pipe drawings of the Morris Reservoir connection were revised as required and drawings of mis-

cellaneous metal work were prepared. For the Orange County feeder, Santa Monica feeder, and lateral extensions to member cities, structure designs were revised to conform to adopted types of pipe and valves. Wiring diagrams for electric equipment installation and mechanical designs of activated carbon dust filters were prepared for the water softening plant. Detail drawings and design in connection with the Mathews memorial at Lake Mathews were completed.

Specifications—Eight sets of specifications were completed during the month, and bids were opened and recommendation for awards made on seven sets of specifications, including No. 341 for the Orange County Reservoir, and No. 342 for the Long Beach lateral extension.

Hydrography—Meetings of the Colorado River Commission of California were attended for discussion of Tri-State Compact problems.

Distribution Division

Field and Office Engineering—All field work was in connection with construction operations in progress. Further studies and estimates were made of the location and cost of the proposed extension of the Orange County feeder. Construction of the Mathews memorial and landscaping of the site near the west end of Lake Mathews dike were in progress.

Contract Work—At the softening and filtration plant, construction work was continued through the month. On the Santa Monica feeder, Chevy Chase Boulevard and the Sycamore Canyon storm drain were crossed on Schedule 29P; good progress was made on Schedule 30SC and Hollywood Tunnel; the Cahuenga Freeway crossing was finished; and on September 16 work started at the Santa Monica delivery structure. Work was started on the Compton extension on September 25, and on the same day work was begun on the Long Beach extension, with excavation, to handle the flow of the Los Angeles River.

Purchasing Division

A total of 280 purchase orders were issued during September covering purchases amounting to approximately \$69,000. Carload forwarding totaled 39, of which 35 were cement.



We must take care of our own.

Help Your Own Is Community Chest Appeal

Determined to duplicate last year's "100 per cent plus" record the Metropolitan Water District Employees Community Chest Committee will begin its 1941 drive with a general meeting of the Los Angeles office employees on October 31, 1940. At this meeting a representative of the Community Chest will discuss the functions and operations of the Chest.

Pledge cards and literature will be distributed immediately after the meeting and all employees are urged to get their pledges in early. The completion date for the District's campaign has been set for November 19.

This year's committee is headed by General Manager F. E. Weymouth, who is also a member of the general Community Chest Campaign Council. Also serving on the District's Community Chest Committee, with full military titles, are Colonels Don J. Kinsey and J. M. Luney and Majors L. V. Branch, C. J. Brandt, R. B. Diemer, J. M. Gaylord, S. A. Joseph, A. W. McKinlay, B. C. Leadbetter, Alan Patten, and T. T. Walsh.

The Los Angeles Community Chest collects for 88 agencies located throughout the District cities and any employee, simply by indicating on his pledge card, is assured that his donation will be used in his home city.

Remember we must take care of our own.

Accounting and Costkeeping

The total cost of the work accomplished to September 30, 1940, was \$185,982,118.93.